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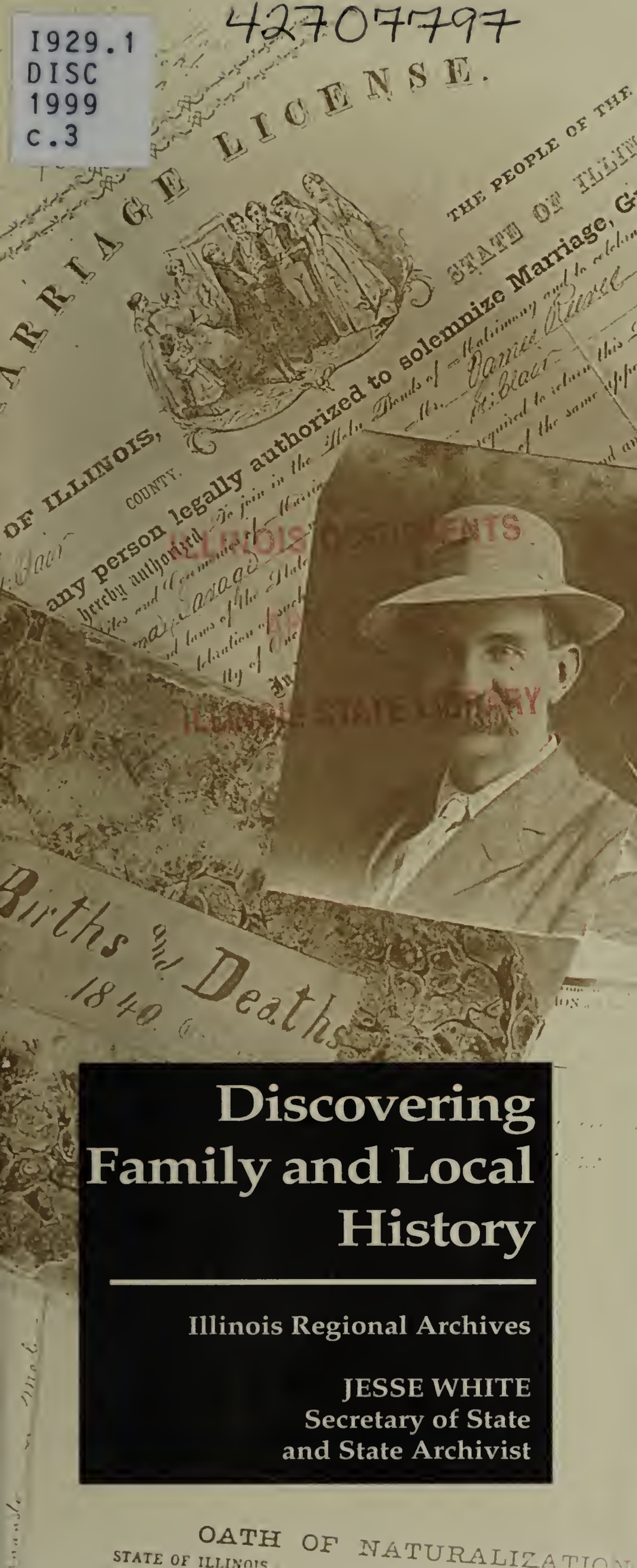

Discovering Family and Local History

Illinois Regional Archives

JESSE WHITE
Secretary of State
and State Archivist

ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS
ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY

OATH OF NATURALIZATION
STATE OF ILLINOIS

"Preserving our past for the future"

Looking back into our past and into the history of the place we call home is an enriching experience. To assure that future generations will have the same opportunities to explore their heritage, the Illinois Regional Archives Depository System (IRAD) was established. IRAD is a resource sharing system that works with the Local Records Commission and area officials to transfer valuable records to seven IRAD centers at Illinois state universities.

The records at each IRAD center reflect the unique history and traditions of that region. The relocation of local records to regional facilities makes the records more accessible to researchers and prevents their loss or physical deterioration.

These records are of great help to historians, genealogists and local government officials, but you don't have to be an expert to find the information you're looking for. IRAD and State Archives staff will be pleased to help you find whatever you need to drift back through time and discover the richness of the past.

Jesse White

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Secretary of State
and State Archivist

What records does IRAD have?

Local governments which have transferred records to the regional depositories include counties, townships, municipalities, and school districts. The list includes these types of records:

- county board proceedings files and meeting minutes
- records of births, deaths, and marriages
- land deeds, mortgages and tax sale records
- assessors' and collectors' tax books
- poll books and voter registers
- naturalization records, including declarations of intent
- probate records, including wills and will records, case files, administrators' and executors' records, guardianship records, and inventory and appraisement records
- court case files (civil and criminal), chancery cases (including divorces), docket books and court proceedings, and insanity proceedings files and records
- coroners' inquest records and inquest files
- miscellaneous county records, including almshouse/county home records and jail registers

Township, municipal, and school records include township meeting minutes, highway commissioners' minutes, school trustees' minutes, pupil registers, school land sale records, city council proceedings files and meeting minutes, ordinance records and city election records.

City of Chicago Records. A special part of IRAD's holdings is from the City of Chicago and includes nearly 35,000 previously unknown documents that predate the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. In addition to these City Council proceedings files of 1833-1942,

holdings include plats, atlases, and Sanborn Maps. Other available Chicago records are election registers 1888-1892 and ordinance records spanning from 1837 to 1916.

When is IRAD open?

The resources of IRAD are open to the public; hours at the seven depositories vary, but most are open between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. All depositories are

closed on Saturdays and Sundays, state holidays, and other weekdays the university libraries are closed. Calling the depository before your visit is recommended.

How do I make a request?

IRAD welcomes your mail and telephone requests concerning genealogy and local history, but please include this information:

- full name of the person you are researching
- approximate year this person is expected to appear in a record
- name of the county
- record title or type to search

Please limit inquiries to two names at a time and wait until you've received a response to your first request before submitting additional ones. (See map and addresses on back.)

How do I find what I need?

Several research aids are available to help you in your search. They are:

Publications

A Summary Guide to Local Governmental Records in the Illinois Regional Archives, Second Edition (1999), is available. This guide lists all county, township, and municipal

records, including those from Chicago and Cook County. Cost: $6.

Chicago City Council Proceedings Files: 1833-1871: An Inventory and an Index — 989-page inventory accompanied by an index containing 93 microfiche. The set is available for $35.

County listings

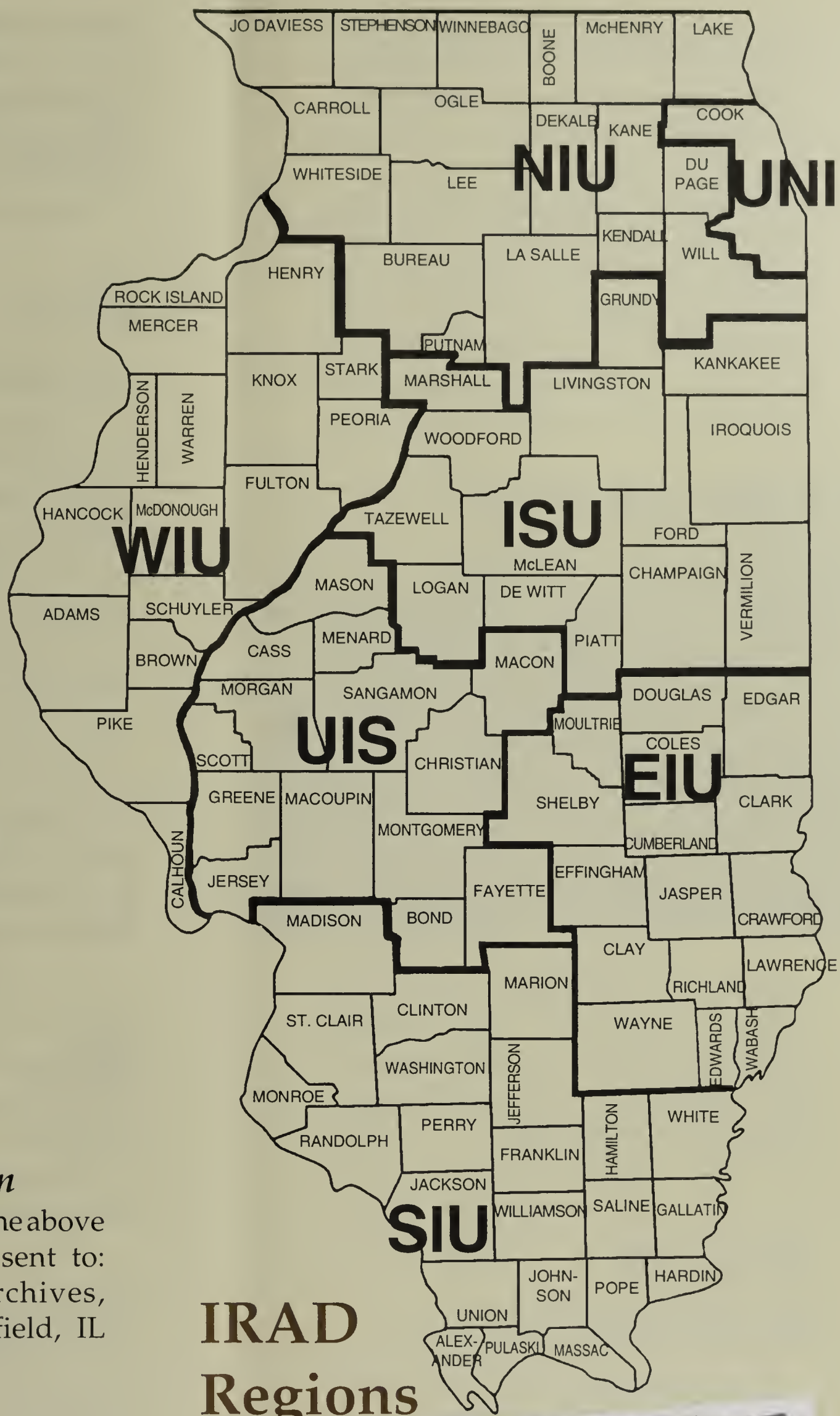
Computer listings of IRAD records arranged by county, office, and record title are available at no charge. Please limit your requests to no more than five counties at a time.

Microfiche listings

The entire listing of IRAD holdings—updated every 12 to 18 months—is available on microfiche to libraries, genealogical and historical societies, or other such organizations.

For more information

Inquiries or orders for the above research aids should be sent to: IRAD, Illinois State Archives, Norton Building, Springfield, IL 62756. (217) 785-1266.



IRAD Regions

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How do I contact a depository?

IRAD—Booth Library
Eastern Illinois University
600 Lincoln Avenue
Charleston, IL 61920
(217) 581-6093

IRAD—Williams Hall
Illinois State University
Campus Box 5500
Normal, IL 61790-5500
(309) 452-6027

IRAD—Regional History Center
Swen Parson Hall
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL 60115
(815) 753-1779

IRAD—LIB-144
University of Illinois at Springfield
P.O. Box 19243
Springfield, IL 62794-9242
(217) 206-6520

IRAD—c/o Special Collections
Morris Library-6632
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, IL 62901
(618) 453-3040

IRAD—Ronald Williams Library
Northeastern Illinois University
5500 N. St. Louis Avenue
Chicago, IL 60625-4699
(773) 794-6279

IRAD—University Library
Western Illinois University
1 University Circle
Macomb, IL 61455-1390
(309) 298-2716

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